

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the outstanding Office Action wherein the Examiner rejected claims 1-8. The Examiner also indicated that claims 1-8 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as set forth in the Office Action. This indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the subject application in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

1. Status of the Claims

Claims 1 and 4-6 are amended herein. No new matter is added by these amendments. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-8 are pending in this application.

2. Claim Amendments

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is introduced by way of the foregoing claim amendments. Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite the subject matter associated with the present disclosure. Support for the amendments to independent claim 1 can be found in the specification, as originally filed, particularly with reference to paragraphs 21-31 and FIG. 1 and the associated text. Applicants have also amended dependent claims 4-6 to more clearly recite the subject matter associated with the present disclosure and to correct typographical errors.

In view of the foregoing listing of claims and as further discussed below, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-8, all the claims in the application, are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112 rejections is respectfully requested.

3. Objection to the Specification

Applicants have amended the abstract of the specification as suggested by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action. No new matter is introduced by way of the proposed amendments to the specification, and prompt entry thereof is respectfully requested. In view of the amendments to the specification, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

4. Objections to the Claims

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 4-6 as suggested by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action. No new matter is introduced by way of the proposed amendments to

the claims, and prompt entry thereof is respectfully requested. In view of the amendments to the claims, it is respectfully requested that the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

5. §112 Rejections

The outstanding Office Action sets forth rejections under 35 USC §112 as follows:

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 so that it does not contain a means plus function limitation. Support for the amendments to independent claim 1 can be found in the specification, as originally filed, particularly with reference to paragraphs 21-31 and FIG. 1 and the associated text.

For at least these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-8 comply with 35 USC §112. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112 rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above-mentioned claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-8 are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. If the examiner believes that a telephone conversation may be useful in advancing prosecution of the application, the examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

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